

MINUTES
DOUGLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, March 9, 2026

The Douglas School District No. 51-1 Board of Education held a Regular meeting on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:00 PM in the library conference room at Vandenberg Elementary School, Box Elder, South Dakota. President Tanya Gray presided. Those present were:

Ben Frerichs: Present, Tanya Gray: Present, Amy McGovern: Absent, Chris Misselt: Present, Tonya Welch: Present. Paul Koecher: Associate Board member, present; Jo Ann Mulholland: Associate Board member alternate, present.

All actions in these Minutes were by unanimous vote unless otherwise stated.

President Tanya Gray called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Superintendent Kevin Case recognized Francis Case Special Education Teacher Andrea Byrd for her outstanding dedication and compassion. She is a top finalist for the South Dakota Department of Education Special Education Staff of the Year Award.

There was nothing for public forum.

Approved Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2026.

Approved Personnel Action for March 2, 2026. (Attachment)

Approved Accounts Payable Report and February Payroll Report. (Attachments)

There were no conflicts disclosed as defined in SDCL 3-23.

Superintendent Items:

Dr. Casey Blochowiak from Studer Education shared a high-level overview of the work on the district succession plan, which will be completed in 2 phases. She explained the "why" is for intentional planning for leadership transitions to avoid transition gaps and ensure progress is not stalled during leadership transitions while maintaining organizational resilience. The implementation of a readiness rubric is part of developing leadership in the district.

Communications Coordinator Alexa White shared an update on the District's Wellness Program, highlighting improved features of the new platform, staff participation, and staff engagement in individual and team challenges.

Fiscal Resources Items:

Business Manager Trista Olney explained the Capital Outlay process. It is estimated that approximately \$3.9 Million to be received during Fiscal Year 2027 (which includes approximately \$100K in E-Rate Rebates). The attached recommendations for Capital Outlay purchases total approximately \$3.4 Million. As previously discussed, the remaining approximately \$500K will be reserved in contingency for unexpected Capital Outlay needs that arise during the school year.

Operational Support Services Items:

Reports:

Superintendent Kevin Case shared an update on the status of Douglas Elementary School #1. The federal funding of \$42 million is approved, and district is facing the challenges of how to proceed with the funding process during the upcoming construction.

Superintendent Kevin Case gave an update on the status of the middle school construction project. The bid tab opening is this week and will then bring the recommendation to the school board at the March 23 meeting.

Lastly, Superintendent Kevin Case commented on the latest update from the US Air Force that the B-21 production is being expedited with the expected arrival of the aircraft at Ellsworth Air Force Base sometime in 2027.

Committee Reports from Board Members and Comments from Associate Board Members

Jo Anne Mulholland reiterated that she is here to support the school and teachers--let her know how she can help.

Paul Koecher commented that a lot is going on right now and families are going through stressful times-- if anyone needs help, let Jo Anne know.

Ben Frerichs attended some of the Classified Listening Sessions last week. Staff were generally positive.

Tanya Gray will attend the Board of Directors meeting for Black Hills Special Services Cooperative at the end of the month.

President Tanya Gray called the Board out of executive session at 6:40 p.m.
No action taken.

Tanya Gray, President

Trista Olney, Business Manager

_____ Initials

_____ Date

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